

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

USIA-15 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02

PRS-01 /118 W

----- 059230

R 151045Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9592

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS ATHNS 5297

BRUSSELS FOR AEC REP

EO 11652 NA

TAGS ENRG, TECH, GR

SUBJ: BILL ESTABLISHING GREEK NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD PASSED

1. BILL PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD (NEB) UNDER MINISTRY OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING WAS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT JUNE 30. CREATION OF BOARD, WHICH WILL SERVE AS TOP ADVISORY BODY ON ENERGY MATTERS, REFLECTS CURRENT GOG CONCERN OVER ENERGY PROBLEMS.

2. MAJOR AIMS OF GOG IN ESTABLISHING THE NEB, AS DESCRIBED IN THE LEGISLATION, ARE: THE OVERALL COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT ENERGY POLICIES; THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MORE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY RESOURCES; CONTROL OF POLLUTION; THE PREPARATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON ENERGY MATTERS; AND THE FOSTERING OF COOPERATION WITH ENERGY ORGANIZATIONS ABOARD. BOARD WILL ACT AS PLANNING AND MONITORING AGENCY ON PROCUREMENT, PRODUCTION, UTILIZATION AND SALES OF ENERGY.

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3. NEB MEMBERSHIP WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES (ONE REGU AR

AND ONE ALTERNATE) OF FOLLOWING AGENCIES; PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION (PPC) PUBLIC PETROLEUM CORPORATION (TO BE ESTABLISHED), DEMOCRITUS NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. FOUR TO SIX OTHER EXPERTS WILL ALSO BE APPOINTED. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN WILL BE SELECTED FROM MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THREE TO FIVE NEB MEMBERS WILL BE APPOINTED BY MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING. DR. ELIAS GYFTOPOULOS, HEAD OF MIT'S NUCLEAR DEPARTMENT IS REPORTEDLY TO BE SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF NEB.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES SOME SKEPTICISM ON PART OF WORKING-LEVEL OF PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION CONTACTS ON POTENTIAL UTILITY OF NEW CREATION. THIS IS BASED IN PART ON NOTE-TOO-SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS IN RECNT PAST TO SET UP SIMILAR AGENCIES (WITHIN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, AND AS SEPARATE MINISTRY OF ENERGY). HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT TOP-LEVEL OF CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT USING BOARD TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO GREECE'S SERIOUS ENERTY PROGLEMS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE BILLS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS05297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750244-0165
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750753/aaaabvbp.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JAN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILL ESTABLISHING GREEK NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD PASSED
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GR, NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006